

A New Tachinid Parasitic on Armyworms in Mexico

By C. H. CURRAN,

Entomological Branch, Ottawa, Canada.

Archytas cirphis n. sp.

Belongs to the *analis* group, in which the pleura are yellowish pilose, the thorax wholly pollinose and the abdomen shining black with the apical segment more or less distinctly pollinose. Length, 10 to 12 mm.

Male. Lower part of head yellow in ground color, wholly covered with white pollen; front aeneous, covered with greyish ochreous pollen, the frontal vitta rusty orange; upper portion of occiput pale ochreous pollinose. Pile of head whitish with yellowish tinge above. Upper two-thirds of front with stiff black hairs; three or four finer bristles outside the frontal rows below; orbitals wanting; inner verticals long, decussate, the outers much smaller and proclinate or directed obliquely backwards; a small bristle, of equal size with the postocellars, behind each vertical. Antennae brownish red, the third segment black; the first two segments usually largely infuscated, probably shining reddish brown in fully mature specimens. Front at vertex seven-eighths as wide as greatest width of eye. Palpi reddish, long, moderately broadened apically.

Mesonotum bronze-black, densely yellowish grey pollinose, the shining vittae extremely narrow; hair and bristles black; pleura with similar pollen to dorsum, clothed with fine yellow pile which also covers the notopleura and perpendicular part of the humeri; sternopleurals 2:1. Scutellum brownish red, brownish yellow pollinose, with two pairs of strong marginals and two or three weaker pairs in addition to the decussate apicals: above the apicals a pair of slightly weaker, slightly diverging bristles and one or two additional pairs of horizontal ones.

Legs black; tibiae castaneous; anterior femora grey pollinose behind.

Wings lightly cinereous, somewhat yellowish basally; epaulet yellow. Squamae white, yellowish basally; halteres yellow with brown knob.

Abdomen castaneous, with a diffuse black median vitta extending almost to the apex of the third segment, broader basally, tapering behind, fourth segment with rusty brown pollen. First segment without marginals; second with one pair; third with apical row; fourth with two rows on apical half in addition to the apically directed row. Lobes of fifth sternite almost simple, with only a slight inward curve at lower apex. Posterior forceps with the lateral ridges somewhat longer than high; apex of the broad anterior arm shallowly, broadly notched. Outer forceps with the lower arm strongly swollen and not as long as the narrow upper arm.

Female. Front one-sixth wider than eye; two orbitals.

Described from 4♂, 8♀, Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico, December, 1923, and February, 1924, reared from *Cirphis* pupae by H. T. Osborn.

Holotype and *Allotype* in the United States National Museum *Paratypes* in Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association collection and No. 1559 in the Canadian National collection, Ottawa.

The flies were reared from pupae of Lepidoptera collected in sugar cane fields during 1923. Mr. Swezey states that *Cirphis latiuscula* was the chief species reared by Mr. Osborn from caterpillars present in the cane fields, while *C. cholica* (and perhaps other species) was also reared to some extent.

***Archytas piliventris* Van der Wulp**

7♂ and 4♀ were reared from cutworm pupae collected in alfalfa fields at Los Mochis. All of these except two are probably from *Laphygma frugiperda* while two are from *Agrotis ypsilon*?